Special Convention for Joint Struggle for Tribal Autonomy in Guwahati

1929. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a special convention held in Guwahati on Monday 5th June, 2000 under the aegis of All Assam Tribal Sungha calling for a Joint struggle for tribal autonomy;

(b) if so, what were the precise tribal demands voiced at the convention; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Fencing at Indo-Pak Border

†1930. PROF. R.B.S. VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that putting up barbed wire fencing on Indo-Pak border has been completed;

(b) if not, the reasons therefore;

(c) the area covered under barbed wire fencing as on May, 2000; and

(d) the parts of the border-area still to be fenced with the barbed wire and by when the remaining work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME

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† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) A total of 452 kms and 1048 kms International Border with Pakistan has been fenced in Punjab and Rajasthan sectors respectively. Certain unfeasible riverine and shifting sand dune areas in Punjab and Rajasthan respectively have been left unfenced.

Government have approved a proposal for construction of fencing on raised embankments in 310 kms of Rann of Kutch area in Gujarat sector. Work in 10 kms stretch has already been completed and entire project is expected to be completed in five years' time. Further, it has been decided to undertake fencing/flood lighting along the 180 kms of Jammu International Border and provision of electronic surveillance equipment in sensitive stretches. This project is expected to be completed in about one and a half year's time.

Greater Autonomy for the States

1931. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir and some other prominent leaders have recently asked for greater autonomy of the States to bring normalcy there;

(b) whether Government are against greater autonomy;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) the advantages and disadvantages of the greater autonomy; and

(e) whether greater autonomy is being considered with some conditions, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (e) Voices have been raised both in favour and against the grant of autonomy to J and K. The Government is of firm conviction that national integration and devolution of powers to States must go together and committed to continuing its endeavour to evolve a broad consensus on the implementation of steps for wide ranging devolution